

APPLICANT: Avner SHAFRIR, et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/583,734
DOCKET NO.: 23452-112
CUSTOMER NO.: 29315

Remarks

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of the Double Patenting rejection.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that the “submitted Information Disclosure Statement is considered” and respectfully request the Examiner to return the signed and initialed Form PTO-1449.

Claims 1-22 are all the claims pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the rejected claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing remarks.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by “Chatting in Style,” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Information and Library Science. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on at least the grounds that the “Chatting in Style” reference is not prior art because it appears to have been disclosed on August 13, 2001, which is *after* Applicants’ priority date of June 2, 1999.

Applicants used the “Internet Archive WayBackMachine” available at <http://www.waybackmachine.org> to determine the release date of the “Chatting in Style” document. The earliest date at which Applicants could find a release of the “Chatting in Style” reference is on August 13, 2001. A copy of the WayBackMachine results are attached as ATTACHMENT A. Since the cited reference does not satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102(a), withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-22 is respectfully requested. However, Applicants reserve the right to distinguish over the “Chatting in Style” web page if and when a disclosure date prior to June 2, 1999 is established.

Nonetheless, independent claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 21 and 22 are distinguishable over this cited reference, which is not prior art. In particular, the independent claims recite the feature of presenting one or more user indicators *as links within the at least one electronic document*, among other things. In an exemplary embodiment, network users may determine the status of other network users wherever a user indicator is presented in the system, whether it is an e-mail,

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HTML document or any other electronic document (see the present specification at page 5, last paragraph bridging onto page 6).

In contrast, “Chatting in Style” illustrates a separate ICQ window, which is not part of an electronic document (see page 2 of “Chatting in Style”). Rather, the ICQ window is displayed on top of other open applications on a desktop or as a floating window that may be reduced as an icon on the desktop (see page 2). As a result, Applicants claimed subject matter is distinguished from “Chatting in Style” which fails to disclose or suggest presenting one or more user indicators *as links within the at least one electronic document*.

In view of the comments above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference does **not** satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102(a). Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited.

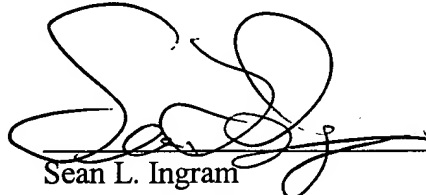
If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned attorney stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

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In the event that it is determined that any fees are due, except for the Issue Fee, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311.

Dated: September 16, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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(for James G. Gatto, Reg. No. 32,694)

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ATTACHMENT A

Enter Web Address:

All

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Adv. Search

Searched for <http://ils.unc.edu/~marsc/chat.html>**5 Results**

* denotes when site was updated.

Search Results for Jan 01, 1996 - Sep 16, 2003

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
0 pages	0 pages	0 pages	0 pages	0 pages	2 pages	2 pages	0 pages
					<u>Aug 13, 2001</u> *	<u>Feb 06, 2002</u>	
					<u>Dec 06, 2001</u>	<u>Jun 05, 2002</u>	

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